

## The Great War—1242d Day

Aviators Active  
On West Front;  
Infantry Quiet

French Fight 100 Combats  
in Sky in Three Days,  
Pétain Reports

## Eighteen Germans Fall

British Casualty List Shows  
Fewer Numbers, Marking  
Fewer Attacks

LONDON, Dec. 24.—While infantry activity has diminished along the front in France and Flanders, the fighting in the air is growing in intensity. Pétain officially reported to-day that the French pursuit (battle) airplanes in the three days of December 21 to 23, inclusive, engaged in one hundred combats and brought down eighteen German machines. French losses were not mentioned.

Apparently, both sides are increasing their air forces rapidly. But Pétain's statement that most of the fighting in the period mentioned took place behind the front, and that the air initiative is in the hands of the Allies, and that the foe is momentarily falling behind in fierce competition to add to the newest arm of the service.

Of the eighteen German airplanes downed all but one either fell in flames or was destroyed by crashing to the ground. In the same period French bombing machines dropped twenty tons of explosives on railroads, factories, communications, marching troops or other targets behind the front.

The decrease in the land fighting was shown to-day in the British casualty list for the week of December 19 to 24, inclusive. Only 13,919 were lost, compared with 17,976 for the week ended December 11 and 28,822 for the week ended December 4.

Of men were killed or died of wounds: 837 officers and 10,160 men were wounded or reported missing. Haig officially reported to-day that the British army has been repulsed by the French and west of La Bassée, while the French drove off by their fire small attacking parties near Besonvaux and Courrières Wood, both on the right bank of the Meuse, near Verdun.

**Training Thousands  
Of Aero Mechanics**

Schools for Americans in England This Winter to Teach Care of Machines

(By The Associated Press)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 24.—When the American air fighters begin arriving in France in large numbers they will find a corps of several thousand American mechanics trained on this side of the Atlantic waiting to assemble, repair and care for their machines.

The Associated Press is able to announce that arrangements have been completed for training a large number of mechanics this winter in England and that many repair units already have been sent there. They will re-cross the English Channel as needed when trained.

Arrangements also have been made for the establishment in the United States of flying schools for Italian aviators.

American Red Cross to Carry  
Christmas Cheer to Italians

Each Soldier in and Around Venice Will Receive Gift of  
Socks, Tobacco, Sweets, Some Articles of Food  
and a Distinctive Present

(By The Associated Press)

VENICE, Dec. 24.—American Christmas cheer will be carried to the Italian soldiers in the trenches and to the sick and wounded soldiers in and around Venice by B. Harvey Carroll, Jr., American Consul at Venice, acting for the American Red Cross. Mr. Carroll will leave Venice with General di Viterbo, franchese, as far as the tour of the trenches on Christmas Eve. They will be accompanied by detachments of soldiers with trucks bearing huge bundles of gifts for distribution among the troops.

Each soldier will receive a package containing socks, handkerchiefs, tobacco, sweets, some articles of food and a distinctive present.

**Presents for Wounded**

Another distribution will be made in Venice on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning to wounded soldiers and civilians. Large numbers of wounded are now coming from the Piave to the hospitals of Venice. Each of these will be remembered with clothing, food and sweets.

The civilian poor are being cared for regularly to the number of 1,200. Eight hundred received meals at one American soup kitchen and 400 at another American kitchen. In addition to the extra Christmas dinner, each woman and child will receive a present of clothing and food. The clothing consists of blankets, shawls, underclothing and stockings, most of which has been manufactured in the American Red Cross factory at Maestre, a suburb of Venice.

**Official Statements**

**West BRITISH**

LONDON, Dec. 24 (DAY).—Last night hostile raiding parties which attempted to approach our lines in the neighborhood of Monchy-le-Preux and west of La Bassée were repulsed by our fire. The artillery fighting was rather vigorous on the left bank of the river, in the sector of Bethincourt.

**FRENCH**

PARIS, Dec. 24 (DAY).—On the right bank of the Meuse (Verdun front) the German made two raids against our small posts near Besonvaux and Courrières Wood. Their efforts were repulsed by our fire. The artillery fighting was rather vigorous on the left bank of the river, in the sector of Bethincourt.

On December 21, 22 and 23 our pursuit aviators were very active. Our pilots engaged in 100 combats, most of them over the German lines. Eighteen German machines were brought down. Of these, seventeen fell in flames or crashed to the ground and were destroyed. During this period our bombing squadrons dropped 18,000 kilograms (nearly twenty tons) of projectiles on railway stations, factories, communications and other objectives behind the enemy's lines.

**Italian Front ITALIAN**

ROME, Dec. 24.—After careful and intense artillery preparation, which began Saturday evening, the enemy yesterday morning made a determined attack in the western sector of Asiago Plateau, concentrating his action especially on Ruse-Monte Vailieu.

At this point he succeeded in passing our defenses, which had been raked by the artillery, but his advance had to stop at the positions to the rear from which our troops began powerful counter-attacks. These still continue with satisfactory results.

Last night on the Piave Vecchia (old Piave), to the south of Gradopio, detachments of Bersaglieri, completing a surprise attack operation valiantly made during the previous days, drove to the left bank of the river large enemy parties, who, having succeeded in passing to the right bank, had desperately attempted to remain there.

**Rumania to Open  
First Legation Here**

Dr. C. Angelescu Coming to Establish Official Relations With U. S.

That Rumania never had an official representative in America is a little known fact revealed with the announcement yesterday that Dr. C. Angelescu, first minister from that country to the United States, is expected to arrive here in a day or two.

Dr. Angelescu is on the way from Paris with the Rumanian commission to the United States. He has held several important diplomatic posts in his native country, and, in addition, is reputed to be one of the leading medical authorities of Europe.

Accompanying the new minister are members of the Rumanian Legation that will be opened at Washington. Among them is Captain Teisescu, military attaché of the legation, who lost an arm in battle.

**2 Interned Germans Escape**

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 24.—Ferdinand Kube and Kurtz Wilkins, German civilians interned at Fort Douglas, escaped to-day, according to a statement made by the military authorities.

**Propagandists in  
Italy Assail British**

German Agents Spread Wild Reports of Selfishness and Aggression

(Special Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Italy is filled with anti-British propaganda of the most sinister character. German agents and Italian Germanophiles spread wild reports of British selfishness and aggression. The Rome correspondent of "The London Morning Post" tells of a friend of his being assured by an Italian soldier that Great Britain had demanded Sardinia as the price of her assistance to Italy. This story gained wide circulation, and was believed by ignorant people, while only a few of the volunteers of Sicily was the price to be paid to England.

Another report had it that in return for her financial aid to Italy, Britain obtained control of a certain number of Italian ports for a long period of years.

The Teutons continue to shower all kinds of appeals on the Italian lines. The following is a specimen of an Austrian manifesto thrown from an aeroplane near Classe, outside of Ravenna: "Italians! your second and third army, again beaten on the Tagliamento and on the Piave, are in full flight toward Treviso and Padua, while the fourth army is retiring under the pressure of the Tyrolean troops, thus leaving the British sole masters of the Venetian plain."

"The representation of such an irreparable breach of Italy's sacred territory is already manifest in Russia. The Soviet (revolutionary) committee of the official socialist party, weary of seeing the Russian people sacrificed in a hopeless and senseless war, has dealt a vigorous blow at the Provisional Government. Kerensky, the famous dictator, in the day of England has fled. The army has declared for the new government. The Russian people has at last found the energy to free itself from the yoke of the Czar and to obtain true liberty and peace."

British Capture  
Four Villages in  
Plain of Sharon

General Advance to the  
North Reported by Gen-  
eral Allenby

Airplanes Bomb  
Foe

New Line Four Miles North  
of Auja Brook Is  
Reached

LONDON, Dec. 24.—General Allenby's troops are now advancing with slight opposition through the famous Plain of Sharon. The capture of four more villages there was reported to-day. Further east they are also moving northward rapidly.

The plain where the Biblical "rose of Sharon" grew is a broad stretch extending along the Mediterranean, north from Jaffa to Caesarea, and offering an easy road for an army's advance. As late as the time of the crusades it was largely covered with forests, but these have now disappeared.

The British forces, to-day's official announcement says, reached the line of Sheikh el Ballutahel-Jellil, four miles north of the Nahr el Auja (Ajua Brook) on Saturday.

Inland Fejja and Mulebbis were occupied, and then the troops pushed on and took Hantieh, on the Turkish railway line, and Kheibeh-Kheibeh, four miles to the southeast. Airplanes bombed the retreating foe.

The statement is as follows: "On Saturday morning, with naval cooperation, our left continued the advance north of the Nahr el Auja, reaching the line Sheikh el Ballutahel-Jellil, about four miles north of the river. Pushing eastward and south of the river we occupied Fejja and Mulebbis. This was followed by the capture of Hantieh, on the Turkish railway to the north, and Kheibeh-Kheibeh, four miles southeast of Hantieh. Effective aerial work was carried out on enemy transports and infantry."

**Germans Force Italian  
Women and Children  
To Work Under Threat**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Official dispatches from Rome to-day give a detailed story of the fighting on Monte Asolone. They say: "With the recapture of the positions on Monte Asolone the Italian soldiers

presented a division of soldiers who for various reasons were condemned to disciplinary measures. This division was sent to the front and placed in the first line trenches. Italian and enemy soldiers held open parleys, imitating the fraternizing on the Eastern front, but before the collapse. The Italian commanders tolerated or ignored these parleys.

Pacific and "defeatist" literature in large quantities was sent to the front along with munition shipments, apparently without the knowledge of the commanders.

"The Italian press," writes Ballot-Beaupre, "is now writing freely about deserters and fugitives, and telling of mass executions, and there is no reason why the French papers should not discuss these matters freely. Every Italian asks himself now the following question: 'How was it possible for the government to tolerate month after month at the front and rear the defeatist propaganda of the radical parties?'"

**Clemenceau Demands  
Younger Generals**

Present Age Limits for Commanders Too High, He Declares

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Premier Clemenceau has sent a circular letter to General Pétain and all the army chiefs pointing out that the experience of three years of war has shown that existing age limits are too high and that with a few rare exceptions commands are not effectively exercised at over fifty-six for a regiment, fifty-eight for a brigade, sixty for a division and sixty-two for an army corps. Under these conditions, he adds, general and field officers over these ages must be given commands hereafter in the rear or placed at the disposal of the Minister of War.

The only exception to this rule will be the general officers recommended to retain their commands on the personal responsibility of generals commanding armies.

In the future, the Premier declares, no promotions will be made to the rank of general officers who have served only a short time in the line. This policy will result in placing at the head of the fighting troops, he hopes, chiefs who know them well and in whom the soldiers can have full confidence from having seen them at the front. The same principle will be used in promoting field and subordinate officers.

**Tudor May Form  
Labor Cabinet  
In Australia**

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 24.—Further returns from the referendum have increased the vote against compulsory military service, and the defeat of the plan is now beyond doubt. The political situation is most uncertain.

Premier Hughes has made no statement thus far, but in certain quarters there is evidence that Nationalists to his continued leadership of the Nationalists, the dominant party.

It is not improbable that Frank G. Tudor, former Cabinet member, will be permitted by the Nationalists to form a government from the Labor party, giving this party an opportunity to put into effect its plans for raising troops without conscription.

**Guillaumat for Salonica**

PARIS, Dec. 24.—General M. P. E. Sarraill, the government has decided, according to an official announcement, will be replaced as head of the Allied armies in Salonica by General Marie Louis Adolphe Guillaumat, General Sarraill, who has been struggling against serious difficulties and has rendered great services, will be called to other duties as soon as circumstances permit.

General Guillaumat arrived at Salonica Saturday. He is one of the heroes of Verdun, where he commanded an army corps which was mentioned in army orders as having "distinguished itself by the methodical precision of its preparations and the vigor of its attacks."

**New \$30,000,000 Swiss Loan**

BERNE, Dec. 23.—Switzerland will issue in January a new loan of \$30,000,000 at 5 per cent. The cost of Swiss mobilization to date amounts to \$200,000,000.

Deserters Meet  
In Switzerland

Hold Congress and Defy  
Swiss Papers That  
Score Them

## China Depots Dr. Reid

American Editor Ousted for  
Pro-Germanism

PEKING, Dec. 24.—Gilbert Reid, an American, accused of being a pro-German propagandist in the Chinese press, has been deported to Manila at the request of the Chinese government.

Dr. Gilbert Reid, editor of "The Peking Post," which was supposed to be subsidized by the German government, was arrested in Peking on April 25 last by an American consular officer, charged with libeling President Wilson, and taken to Tien-Tsin, in one of his many obnoxious editorials he had said:

"The Kaiser showed no more symptoms of autocracy in getting Germany into the great war than has President Wilson in getting the United States into the war."

On July 23 he was released from prison at Shanghai after making a pledge of repentance and loyalty.

**Alleged German Spy Arrested  
On Presidential Warrant**

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.—Federal officials announced to-night the arrest on a Presidential warrant of Franz Schubert, alleged to be one of the cleverest and most dangerous German spies operating on the Pacific Coast.

According to army officers, he planned to destroy government docks and shipping in most of the big Coast ports.

**Methodist Bishops Try  
Charges of Disloyalty**

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24.—A board of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in executive session to-day began a trial of charges of disloyalty and pro-Germanism against members of the faculty of Baldwin-Wallace College.

Allen Sumner, a student of the college, testifying before the board, asserted that "unless conditions were changed" forty out of forty-eight members of his class would not return after the Christmas holidays.

**Gen. Goethals to Remain as  
Jersey's Advisory Engineer**

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 24.—Major General Goethals will continue to serve New Jersey as State Engineer in an

Deaths Among  
Our Troops Abroad

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Four deaths in the American expeditionary force were reported to the War Department by General Pershing. The Navy Department was advised of the death of two seamen who were lost overboard from a transport December 17. The army casualties reported are as follows:

FISKE, Charles D., private, infantry, December 17, scarlet fever; emergency address, Louis J. Fiske (no relationship given), 8 Cambridge Street, Attleboro, Mass.

PERRY, James E., private, Engineers, December 20, measles, complicated by broncho-pneumonia; emergency address, Mrs. S. R. Shepard (sister), Moultrie, Ga.

GOODE, Madison L., private, Engineers, December 20, broncho-pneumonia, complicated by measles; emergency address, R. L. Brooks (uncle), Abbeville, Ga.

SIDERS, Bert C., private, Engineers, December 21, broncho-pneumonia; emergency address, Andrew Sidors (father), Avella, Penn.

MURPHY, Leo B., seaman second class, of Orville, Cal.

VIDAHL, George O. K., seaman second class, of Arlington, N. J.

advisory capacity, he informed Governor Edge in a letter to-day. It was thought his new duties might cause him to resign.

Back Up Men Abroad,  
Urges Roosevelt

OYSTER BAY, N. Y., Dec. 24.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, at the Christmas festival of the Sunday school of Christ Episcopal Church this evening, talked of the world war and urged every person to take an active part in it. He complimented the children in sacrificing presents in order to send money to Belgium, where the church has adopted three children.

"I believe in every one having a good time," he said, "unless by giving up that good time you will help some one else. The worst time which you children have experienced so far in life is the happiest time the children over there have had in the last three years. The United States is now at war," he continued.

"We were shamefully unprepared, but we are now making up for it. Let us all be on Uncle Sam's team and back up the men at the front. Germany despised us for our unready strength. We had been prepared Germany would never have gone to war with us."

"A year hence we will feel little inclination to have a Christmas gathering, for many homes here will be darkened. Next year will be one of trial, and each man, woman and child has a part to perform, and that is to help our country and comfort others."

Charged Purchases Made To-Morrow and During the Remainder  
of December Will Appear on Bill Rendered February First.

## Franklin Simon &amp; Co.

Fifth Avenue, 37th and 38th Streets

REDUCED PRICES—WEDNESDAY

## MISSES', JUNIORS', GIRLS' SUITS AND COATS

At the Lowest Prices Advertised This Season

No Exchanges

No Credits

## MISSES' TAILORED SUITS

With or Without Fur Trimming

This season's models of wool velour, broadcloth, burella cloth or gabardine.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

15.00

Heretofore \$29.50 to \$39.50

## MISSES' HIGH CLASS SUITS

Trimmed With Various Furs

Distinctive winter models of wool velour, silvertone, velour de laine, broadcloth or velveteen.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

35.00

Heretofore \$45.00 to \$69.50

## GIRLS' and JUNIOR COATS

Sizes 6 to 17 Years

Belted, semi-Empire or flare models, of wool velour, cheviot velour, chinchilla or Pom Pom Bolivia; lined and interlined.

14.50

Heretofore \$18.50 to \$24.00

## MISSES' AFTERNOON DRESSES

Of Various Fashionable Silks

Of Georgette crepe, satin, taffeta silk, silk crepe de chine or flowered silk chiffon; in all desirable colors.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

Special 29.50

## MISSES' WINTER COATS

With or Without Fur Trimming

of Pom Pom, wool velour or burella cloth; majority silk lined and interlined.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

19.75

Heretofore \$29.50 to \$39.50

## MISSES' FUR TRIMMED COATS

Also Plain Tailored Models

Belted or flare models of wool velour, Pom Pom, cheviot velour or velveteen; majority silk lined.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

29.50

Heretofore \$39.50 to \$49.50

## MISSES' HIGH CLASS COATS

Richly Fur Trimmed

Of Bolivia cloth, wool velour, Poirer velour, Pom Pom or silvertone; silk lined, warmly interlined.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

45.00

Heretofore \$59.50 to \$69.50

SPECIAL FOR WEDNESDAY

## MISSES' VELVETEEN DRESSES

Trimmed With Black Silk Braid

Navy, brown or black velveteen dresses bound with black silk braid; satin roll collar, graceful side draped skirt.

Sizes 14 to 20 years.

Special 18.50

## James McCreery &amp; Co.

5th Avenue ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY 34th Street

Purchases will appear on bills rendered February 1st

Extraordinary Offering

## 500 MISSES' FUR-COLLARED COATS



A most advantageous purchase of the surplus stock of Misses' Fur-Collared Coats, from a leading Manufacturer, makes this sale possible. Fashioned of an excellent quality Wool Velour or Broadcloth in Navy Blue, Black, Brown, Green, Taupe or Burgundy; lined throughout with guaranteed satin; collars of Nutria, Black Opossum, Coney or Seal; size 14 to 18 years.

\$17.50

regularly 26.50 to 37.50